Experts on Both Sides

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Doctors' Testimony Conflicts In Dade Lung Cancer Trial

By ARTHUR JOHNSEY
Herald Staff Writer

The conflict of expert medical testimony over causes of lung cancer began Tuesday in Miami federal court as the American Tobacco Company, defendant in a damage suit, offered its first witnesses.

A University of Florida pharmacologist, Dr. Thomas Maren, told the jury that retention of arsenic in the body, when introduced in the blood stream in far larger doses than comes in through the smoke-stream of a cigaret, is "trivial."

And a practicing Miami physician took the stand to affirm that nobody knows the causes of cancer.

As witnesses called by the defendant tobacco company, their testimony tended to contradict a series of witnesses offered by the estate of the late Edwin M. Green, Coconut Grove swimming pool contractor.

Green's estate is attempting to prove heavy smoking of cigarets over more than 25 years caused his lung cancer.

Before completing its case Monday, the plaintiff had offered medical testimony that even the minute traces of arsenic found in the smoke-stream could accumulate in a period of 30 years or more to affect the lungs.

The plaintiff contended arsenic could be a factor, acting with other substances in cigaret tars, to cause cancer.

Dr. Maren said, however, that arsenic accumulates over the years in the body in very small places and in very small amounts so that its effect is negligible.

"Virtually all arsenic is excreted by the kidneys and there is little or no evidence of cumulation," he said.

There was "not the slightest evidence," he added, that Green had arsenic poisoning before his death.

The Green's attorney protested the witness' answer, pointing out that there was no contention that poisoning from arsenic had occurred.

Asked on cross-examination whether arsenic hasn't been "incriminated" as a factor in causing cancer, Dr. Maren retorted:

"It's been implied — chiefly by one man who had no proof."

Dr. Jay Flipse, a practicing Miami physician, told the jury causes of lung cancer aren't known by any one.

He cast doubt on the place of origin of the cancer that caused Edwin Green's death, testifying that without an autopsy it was not possible to determine whether a growth in the apex of his left lung spread to the right side of the neck as had been indicated in earlier testimony. Dr. Flipse testified it was "extremely unusual" if the cancer spread as described.

Defense testimony was expected to continue through Thursday.

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Doubt Cast On Cancer Theories

By ARTHUR JOHNSEY
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A federal court jury heard further medical testimony Wednesday casting doubt on theories that heavy cigaret smoking is a cause of lung cancer.

A Texas scientist testified he and his associates have tried for several years to produce cancer by use of tobacco tars in the lung of a duck but no cancer has been produced.

Dr. R. H. Rigdon, staff member of the University of Texas at Galveston, took the stand as a witness for the American Tobacco Co.

The company is defending itself in a damage suit based on claims that lung cancer caused by heavy smoking of Lucky Strike cigarets brought on the death of Edwin M. Green.

On cross-examination Dr. Rigdon said his research in part had been financed by funds made available to the University of Texas by the American Tobacco Institute.

Another witness cast doubt on the statements of witnesses for the Edwin M. Green estate, plaintiffs in the damage suit, that the cancer that caused his death originated in the lung.

Dr. Duane Carr, of the University of Tennessee Medical School, Memphis, said he'd never seen a cancer in the left upper lobe spread to the spot on the right side, below the neck, where Green's fatal cancer lodged.

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